

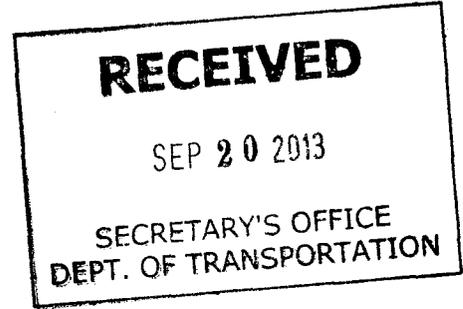


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WASHINGTON COUNTY
DIVISION OF ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT
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September 18, 2013

The Honorable Secretary James T. Smith Jr.
State of Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, Maryland 21076



**RE: 2013 Annual MDOT Tour Meeting
Board of County Commissioners Priorities**

Dear Secretary Smith:

On behalf of the Washington County Board of County Commissioners and our County Administrator, I am pleased to share the County's Transportation Priorities with you and your staff. The County looks forward to discussing recent success on joint projects as well as opportunities with each of the following priorities:

1. Interstate 70 and Maryland 65 Interchange Improvements: According to the State Highway Administration (SHA), approximately 87,000 vehicles cross this interchange of state routes daily; the interchange often fails during peak hours. Washington County has entered an Access Management Plan with the SHA and the City of Hagerstown for Maryland 65. In the short term, signal coordination is needed for six (6) signals in less than 4,200 feet. Long term, the County will advocate for a full cloverleaf interchange.

2. Eastern Boulevard: The County will invest over \$26 million in Eastern Boulevard improvements from MD 64 (Jefferson Boulevard) to MD 60 (Leitersburg Pike). The request to award earmark funds was conveyed to SHA in January, 2013; the SHA's concurrence remains pending. Approval to award will allow the County to proceed with a budgeted capital improvement project.

3. Professional Boulevard Corridor: Transportation and utility improvements underway in the Mt. Aetna Technology Park are valued at over \$37 million. The area includes Hagerstown Community College and Meritus Medical Center. The County and the City of Hagerstown are seeking support for a bridge over Antietam Creek which will provide direct access to the Mt. Aetna Technology Park, the Community College, and Regional Medical Center. The bridge will provide for considerable traffic reduction to state routes, US 40 (Dual Highway) and MD 64.



4. Maugans Avenue Coordination: The County is seeking an SHA project to synchronize three (3) state and two (2) County signals which were improved and interconnected by the County under the Maugans Avenue corridor improvement project.

5. Southern Boulevard: The County is seeking to complete final design plans for a new multi-million dollar corridor in the urban growth area south of Hagerstown. To do so, SHA approval of the Plat for US 40 (Frederick Street) is required.

6. Interstates 81 and 70: The safety and efficiency of Interstates 81 and 70 are vital for the City of Hagerstown, Washington County, and the State of Maryland. According to the SHA, over 60,000 vehicles use Interstate 81 each day; 64,000 use Interstate 70. The County is interested in plans to address the safety and capacity needs of both interstates. The County would like to invite the State of Maryland and SHA to join the Interstate 81 Coalition as participating members.

7. US Route 340: The congestion and safety of US 340 in Washington County remain a concern. The County would like to encourage the State of Maryland to seek coordinated improvements with the Commonwealth of Virginia and the State of West Virginia.

8. Sidewalks: The County would like to thank MDOT and SHA for the opportunity to participate in the Safe Routes to Schools Program. The County is currently in the final phase of a design that will install new sidewalks and safe harbor children walking to and from school on Lincolnshire Road and Lincoln Avenue, to serve Lincolnshire Elementary School. SHA participation on US 11 (Virginia Avenue) is greatly appreciated. Observation indicates a need for additional sidewalk on US 11 from the City of Hagerstown to the Town of Williamsport. The most recent Safe Routes to Schools Program grant will allow for a new sidewalk on Marsh Pike, north of Longmeadow Road, to serve the Paramount Elementary School.

9. Railroad Crossings: As the home of the “Hub City”, the County maintains 37 rail crossings outside the City of Hagerstown alone. All County crossings are being brought up to current standards, in accordance with a detailed study completed this year. The County seeks MDOT support for additional safety improvements and select at grade crossings.

10. Transit Program: The public demand for transit service and route expansion continues. The County added six (6) new shelters for improved service this year; more will be installed throughout the County and in the City of Hagerstown. Additional operational funds would serve to expand transit in accordance with the Transit Development Plan. Service to Boonsboro and other municipalities in the County are priority. Additional operational funding would support staffing the transit center station in downtown Hagerstown.

11. Aviation Program: The existing air traffic control tower at Hagerstown Regional Airport has been in operation since 1972. The existing 50 foot tower was used in Florida previously. MDOT’s support for a potential private-public partnership to fund a new tower is essential. The County will also benefit from MDOT support for property acquisition to expand the airport footprint and expand economic opportunities. The County seeks continued funding assistance for airport marketing in accord with the recently completed Hagerstown Regional Airport Marketing Plan.

Sincerely,



Robert Slocum, PE
Director, Engineering & Construction Management

- c: Senator Christopher B. Shank
 Senator George C. Edwards
 Senator Ronald N. Young
 Delegate LeRoy E. Myers
 Delegate Andrew A. Serafini
 Delegate Neil C. Parrott
 Delegate John P. Donoghue
 Delegate Michael J. Hough
 Mayor and Council of all Washington County Municipalities
 Greg Murray, County Administrator
 Sarah Lankford Sprecher, Assistant County Administrator
 Brien Poffenberger, President, Chamber of Commerce
 Jim Kercheval, Executive Director, Greater Hagerstown Committee
 Anthony Crawford, PE, District Engineer, MDSHA
 Rodney Tissue, PE, City Engineer, Hagerstown MD